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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

BUZEK ET AL.

Serial No.: 10/723,691

Filed: 11/25/03

Confirmation No.: 8922

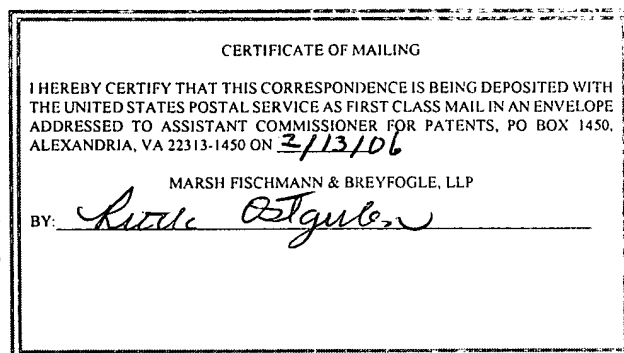
Atty. File No.: 3123-553 (16420-02105)

For: "BALANCING A ROTATABLE
BODY IN MULTIPLE PLANES USING
INVERTIBLE BALANCING PLUGS"

) Group Art Unit: 2653

) Examiner: A. Heinz

) RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
) RESPONSE



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Examiner has taken the position in an Office Action, dated January 12, 2006, that the above-captioned patent application presents two separate inventions – Group I (Claims 1-33) and Group II (Claims 34-47). Applicant elects the invention of Group I (Claims 1-33), but respectfully traverses the Examiner's requirement for restriction.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for making a rotatable body. The only steps required by Claim 1 are the disposition of first and second balancing plugs in first and second holes, respectively, of the rotatable body, with one balancing plug being inverted relative to the other balancing plug. Independent Claim 34 is directed to a rotatable body that has first and second balancing plug holes, with first and second balancing plugs, respectively, being disposed therein.

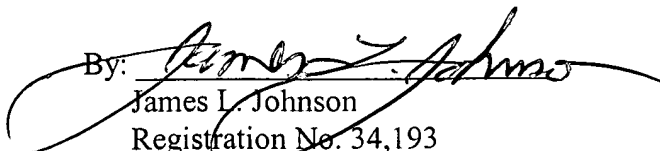
The center of gravity of the first plug is "inverted" in relation to the center of gravity of the second plug. Therefore, independent Claim 1 is directed to the action of placing the first and second balancing plugs in the rotatable body in a certain relative position to each other (although the balancing plugs do of course end up being in the holes), while independent Claim 34 is directed to the first and second balancing plugs already being in the rotatable body in a certain relative position to each other.

Even though the inventions of Group I and Group II may be independent and/or distinct, they must be examined in the same application if this would not be a serious burden for the Examiner. Applicant believes that Groups I and II can be examined without imposing a serious burden on the Examiner. Initially, the application presents only 3 independent claims. Moreover, even though the inventions of Groups I and II may very well be in different classes, the Examiner could search for invertible balancing plugs used for balancing, and the search results could very well be applicable to the inventions of both Groups I and II.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow Claims 1-47 to remain in this application for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

By: 
James L. Johnson
Registration No. 34,193
3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411
Aurora, Colorado 80014
(701) 293-7680

Date: 2/13/06